

**Testimony of Susan L. Yolen, Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
HB 5625, An Act Concerning a Definition of Surgery**

Public Health Committee Hearing of February 23, 2015

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is the largest provider of family planning and reproductive health services in Connecticut, operating seventeen health centers across the state and serving nearly 69,000 patients annually here and in Rhode Island.

Planned Parenthood employs advance practice nurses (APRNs) along with nurse midwives and physician assistants to deliver the majority of the routine health services our patients require. Our clinicians regularly and safely insert and remove long-acting reversible contraceptive implants, and perform cryotherapy and LEEP treatments, along with biopsies of precancerous cervical tissue. Use of advanced practice nurses and other similarly licensed non-physician providers allows us to offer high quality health care affordably, and a large number of our family planning patients are covered under the state Medicaid program.

We are concerned that HB 5625, as worded and taken broadly, could impact a wide range of procedures that are routine for nurse practitioners in many settings like ours, including gynecological and gastrointestinal and even primary care nursing. If this bill is adopted, Section 20-9b must remain intact, and it should be made clear that the currently accepted scope of nursing practice is not affected by the law.

Thank you for considering our concerns and the needs of those who seek our health care services.